Message Text

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16

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 PER-05 SS-20 SP-03 MMS-03 ABF-01

/054 W ----- 114060

R 102107Z MAY 74 FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8544 COMMERCE DEPT

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 2572

E.O.11652:N/A TAGS: APER CI

SUBJ: EXTENSION MARK E. GRADY AND EARLY ARRIVAL REPLACEMENT

- 1. EMBASSY REQUESTS DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND COMMERCE TO APPOINT ASAP TOP QUALITY REPLACEMENT FOR ASSISTANT COMMERCIAL ATTACHE MARK E. GRADY (POSITION NO.21-108) TO ARRIVE SANTIAGO NO LATER THAN AUGUST 1, 1974. REQUEST FURTHER AUTHORIZATION TO EXTEND GRADY'S TOUR FROM PRESENT ETD OF AUGUST TO NOVEMBER 1974.
- 2. RATIONALE; REDUCED WORKLOAD IN COMMERCIAL UNIT DUE TO PESSIMISTIC OUTLOOK FOR U.S. TRADE WITH CHILE PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 1973 LED TO ELIMINATION ONE OFFICER POSITION (20-084). AFTER SEPTEMBER CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT TRADE OUTLOOK HAS REVERSED. COMMERCIAL SECTION CURRENTLY WORKING OVERTIME TO KEEP CURRENT, AND POST EXPECTS OVERTIME LOAD TO INCREASE WITH FURTHER GROWTH OF COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES. ON TOP OF EXPANSION OF NORMAL COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES, VERY HEAVY MANPOWER COMMITMENT WILL BE REQUIRED FOR U.S. COMMERCIAL PRESENCE AT FERIA INTERNACIONAL DE SANTIAGO (FISA), WHICH WILL OPEN OCTOBER 31, 1974.
- 3. CURRENT COMMERCIAL STAFF OF TWO OFFICERS AND THREE LOCALS IS SUFFICIENT TO HANDLE NORMAL COMMERCIAL WORK-LOAD IF GRADY'S SUCCESSOR IS TOP QUALITY. HOWEVER, UNCLASSIFIED

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GRADY'S SUCCESSOR, WHO WILL BE NEW TO CHILE, WILL BE

OVERLOADED IF HE HAS TO PICK UP FISA PLANNING AS WELL AS OTHER DUTIES VIRTUALLY ON EVE OF FISA OPENING. THEREFORE, REQUEST OVERLAP AS INDICATED IN PARAGRAPH ONE.

4. PROMPT DECISION IS REQUESTED AS GRADY MUST ABANDON CURRENT RESIDENCE JUNE 30. POPPER

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